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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 95BUCHAREST6434, ROMANIAN PRESIDENT ION ILIESCU - A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags [#cablegate](#) and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. [#95BUCHAREST6434](#).

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
95BUCHAREST6434	1995-06-23 11:53	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bucharest

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.kamikazeonline.ro/2011/04/si-ion-iliescu-a-brfit-la-ambasada-sua-de-la-bucuresti-despre-studentii-din-piata-universitatii/>

R 231153Z JUN 95
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7939

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 BUCHAREST 006434

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [RO](#)

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN PRESIDENT ION ILIESCU - A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY

1. CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THIS IS THE FIRST OF TWO CABLES FOCUSING ON ROMANIAN PRESIDENT ION ILIESCU, AND COVERS HIS POLITICAL HISTORY THROUGH THE 1992 ELEC

3. GIVEN THE TOTAL LACK OF ORGANIZED OPPOSITION GROUPS IN ROMANIA PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTION, ILIESCU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP THE OLD BUREAUCRA

4. GIVEN ILIESCU'S POLITICAL HISTORY AND OUR CLOSE OBSERVATION OF HIM OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, WE HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN BELIEVING THAT HE IS

5. FROM COMMUNIST ORTHODOXY TO DISSIDENCE

ILIESCU CAME FROM A WORKING CLASS COMMUNIST BACKGROUND AND ROSE RAPIDLY THROUGH THE PARTY RANKS UNTIL HIS 1971 BREAK WITH CEAUSESCU. ILIESCU'S
16. DESPITE HIS ORTHODOX COMMUNIST BACKGROUND AND RAPID RISE IN THE PARTY HIERARCHY, ILIESCU BEGAN TO CRITICIZE CEAUSESCU'S GROWING CULT OF PEF

17. ILIESCU STEPS INTO THE POST-REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP VACUUM -----

DESPITE HIS YEARS IN THE POLITICAL WILDERNESS, ILIESCU WAS WELL-KNOWN AND POPULAR AMONG POLITICALLY ATTUNED ROMANIANS ON THE EVE OF THE 1989 RE

18. COMMENT: OTHER INTERPRETATIONS OF THE 1989 REVOLUTION HAVE IT THAT ILIESCU AND LIKE-MINDED PARTY DISSIDENTS HAD EITHER BEEN PLOTTING A COU

19. TWO BAD YEARS

DUE TO THE LACK OF ORGANIZED ANTI-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION FORCES PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTION, ILIESCU HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO KEEP THE OLD POLITICAL

10. ILIESCU AND THE NSF QUICKLY MOVED TO ESTABLISH CIVIL LIBERTIES AND A PLURALISTIC POLITICAL SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THE MAY 1990 ELECTIONS, IN WHI

11. ILIESCU THEN COMPOUNDED HIS PROBLEMS BY MAKING THE WORST MISTAKE OF HIS POST-REVOLUTION CAREER - CALLING MINERS INTO BUCHAREST IN JUNE, 19

12. COMMENT: ILIESCU HAS TOLD US THAT THE STUDENTS PROTESTS OF SPRING 1990 WERE INSPIRED BY THE NEWLY REESTABLISHED HISTORICAL PARTIES - THE N

EGALITARIANISM WHICH CAME WITH POST-WWII COMMUNIST RULE AND THE RESTORATION OF THE PRE-WWII SOCIAL ORDER, AN ORDER MARKED IN ILIESCU'S VIEW (AN

13. COMMENT CONTINUED: AS ILIESCU PUT IT DURING THE 1992 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN - AND HE HAS NOT DEVIATED SINCE - HIS GOAL IS "A SOCIAL MARKET EC

14. THE TURN OF THE TIDE

FOLLOWING THE FALL OF THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT, ILIESCU IMMEDIATELY TOOK THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF STEPS WHICH REESTABLISHED HIS CREDENTIALS AS A PC

15. COMMENT: MOST ANALYSTS HERE ATTRIBUTE ILIESCU'S 1992 VICTORY TO HIS COMBINATION OF DIGNITY, WHICH ROMANIANS EXPECT OF A PRESIDENT, AND A "CC

16. COMMENT CONTINUED: HOWEVER, ILIESCU IS NOW CAUGHT IN A POLITICAL VICE BETWEEN HIS PRO-REFORM, PRO-WESTERN POLICIES AND HIS POLITICAL BASE, W

17. COMMENT CONTINUED: ILIESCU'S "COMMON MAN" ORIENTATION IS ALSO REFLECTED IN HIS PRIVATE LIFE. HE AND HIS WIFE ELENA, WHO HAS AN ENGINEERING